

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 149919 TOSEC 070006
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: S/S-O:WROPE

APPROVED BY: S/S-O:WROPE

-----044047 132135Z /14

O 132022Z JUN 78 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 149919 TOSEC 070006

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAPE TOWN 1176 SENT ACTION SECSTATE, USUN
NEW YORK, BRUSSELS, PARIS INFO BONN, GABORONE, DAR ES SALAAM,
LIBREVILLE, LAGOS, LONDON, LUSAKA, MAPUTO, OTTAWA, PRETORIA
13 JUN 78

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 1176

BRUSSELS FOR ASST. SECY MOOSE

DEPT PASS FOR SECDEL

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SF, WA, PORG

SUBJ: NAMIBIA: BOTHA'S REACTION TO LUANDA SUMMIT

REFS: (A) CAPE TOWN 1175, (B) USUN 2415

1. FOLLOWING ARE MY PERSONAL COMMENTS TO SUPPLEMENT
REPORT OF CAPE TOWN CONTACT GROUP REPS ON
JUNE 13 MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA (REF A).

2. BOTHA'S REACTION TO OUR REPORT COULD BEST BE
CHARACTERIZED AS FAIRLY CAREFULLY CONTROLLED. WHILE HE
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PAGE 02 STATE 149919 TOSEC 070006

ADOPTED AN EXPRESSION SOMEWHERE BETWEEN ANGER AND GLOOM,
THERE WAS NO BLUSTERING, AND I FOUND HIM MILD IN COMPARISON
WITH REPORTS I HAD READ OF PREVIOUS SESSIONS HERE AND
ENCOUNTERS I OBSERVED IN WASHINGTON. WHILE ALL THE MEMBERS
OF THE CAPE TOWN FIVE AGREED THAT IT WAS HARD TO DRAW ANY
SUBSTANTIVE CONCLUSIONS ABOUT SAG POSITIONS SOLELY
FROM TODAY'S CONVERSATION, IT APPEARED THAT THE SAG'S

GREATEST IMMEDIATE FOCUS OF CONCERN WAS ON THE LOCATION OF TROOPS. ANY WESTERN TENDENCY TO BACK AWAY FROM OUR FORMAL PROPOSAL WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY BE TAKEN BY THE SOUTH AFRICANS AS CREATING AN ENTIRELY NEW SITUATION.

3. WHEN HE CHARGED THAT SWAPO IS PREPARING TO INVADE NAMIBIA, BOTHA SAID HE HAD GIVEN INFORMATION TO ONE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP ABOUT PLANS FOR THE INVASION OF SHABA. (WE HAVE NO RECOLLECTION OF THE LATTER, BUT KNOWING BOTHA'S PENCHENT FOR RHETORIC OF THIS SORT AND THE FACT THAT THERE HAD BEEN NUMEROUS PRE-SHABA REPORTS OF KATANGESE PLOTTING, I DO NOT BELIEVE ANY OF THE FIVE GAVE BOTHA'S COMMENT MUCH SIGNIFICANCE). S.A. POLITICAL LEADERS ARE CLEARLY DISTURBED BY THEIR FEELING THAT SWAPO IS NEVER CRITICIZED FOR ITS MILITANT STATEMENTS ABOUT "LIBERATING" NAMIBIA, OR FOR ITS ORGANIZATION OF GUERRILLA ACTIVITIES, WHEREAS SOUTH AFRICA IS CRITICIZED FOR ANY ACTIONS IT TAKES. AFTER WE MADE OUR POINT ABOUT S.A. TAKING NO ACTION THAT MIGHT DISTURB EMERGING SUPPORT FOR THE SETTLEMENT, BOTHA ASKED, "MUST I BE PENALIZED BECAUSE I HAVE ACCEPTED THE PROPOSALS? WOULD IT BE BETTER IF WE REJECTED THE PROPOSALS AND CONTINUED WARFARE AGAINST THE TERRORISTS?"

5. FOURIE TOOK AS FIRM A STAND AS BOTHA ON THE MATTER OF SOUTH AFRICA'S BEING URGED TO TAKE NO ACTION THAT MIGHT ERODE SUPPORT FOR THE SETTLEMENT, BUT HE SEEMED CAREFUL
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PAGE 03 STATE 149919 TOSEC 070006

TO MAKE CLEAR THAT NO ACTION HAD BEEN TAKEN YET TO REGISTER VOTERS. WHILE THE SAG HAS STILL NOT MADE ITS EXPECTED STATEMENT ON THIS SUBJECT, ONE PRESS SOURCE SAYS IT DECIDED TO POSTPONE ACTION TO JUNE 14. BOTHA'S VERY STRONG ASSERTION THAT VOTER REGISTRATION ACTION WOULD NOT AFFECT THE FIVE'S SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS GAVE US THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE WILL BE AN ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING VOTER REGISTRATION VERY SOON IN ANY CASE.
EDMONDSON

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECTO, INFORMATION EXCHANGE, MEETING REPORTS, SUMMIT MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE149919
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:WROPE
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780247-0425
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780664/aaaacdbd.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 59bebc89-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 CAPE TOWN 1175, 78 USUN NEW YORK 2415
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2369163
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: BOTHA'S REACTION TO LUANDA SUMMIT
TAGS: PORG, SF, WA, (BOTHA, PIK)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/59bebc89-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014